



SAFETY GRAM

Thunderstorm Precautions

WARNING: Weather warnings are issued when severe storms are entering the Fort Polk area. Tornadoes are often associated with thunderstorms and the sirens will sound. Failure to respond to these weather warnings and not taking proper protective precautions may cause injury or death.

BACKGROUND: In the past, several Fort Polk soldiers and soldiers participating in a JRTC rotation have been struck by lightning, both directly and indirectly.

USER ACTIONS: Commanders must ensure soldiers are briefed on the dangers of thunderstorms and the correct precautions to take during the storm.

CONTROL MEASURES:

Ensure that soldiers are properly trained on how to respond to lightning and thunderstorms.

In the field environment, do not lay flat on the ground or put your hands on the ground. Squat, placing your head on your knees and wrap your arms around your legs. This makes you a small target.

Avoid large metal objects such as antennas, electrical power towers, and parked cars.

Do not move onto hilltops, near isolated trees, wide-open spaces, or large bodies of water.

All metal gear should be placed on the ground and all electrical equipment turned off. Do not use tactical communication systems except for emergency.

JRTC & FORT POLK

Strong winds are usually associated with thunderstorms and some become tornadoes. Take shelter in ditch or sturdy structure. If inside a structure move to the lowest level, hallways, bathrooms, and closets provide the best protection.

Safety Office, Bldg 911

531-1981

